November 18, 1938

[159] [He wanted to begin with other data I had asked him to collect. When I asked him to begin with his own story there was a very long [124] pause. I felt much resistance this day. Was he punishing me for not accepting his bid of the preceding day for food and nurture?]

When I was small an old man from Kwasi, called Maugfani, came to stay with us. He was my father's Male House. He used to sit by the fire and doze. He would fall over and then wake up and say, "*Na tatsei.*" ["Indeed, I was dreaming." In local dialect this would be *na is piril.* [132 Such dialectic variations were always cause for much laughter and 147] ridicule.] He was very old and all the time he was there my mother fed him pounded corn. [Question.] He stayed several months and then returned. [Question.] I liked him because I was still small. I called him *grandfather.*

One time Akumale, Fanlani, Marsium, and Kolfani [all siblings or cousins] were staying with mother and father. I was still small. Akumale and Fanlani went to hunt rats near the Limbur ravine. A rat went down a very steep slope. Akumale followed it and rolled down the slope. He was dead. People carried him to Maimuehang. Many women cried for him. But when he got back to Maimuehang he came to life again.

Fanlani's wife was Tilamun. I was still so small I couldn't talk clearly. Tilamun fondled me and took me to a dance. She danced holding me in her scarf. [Question.] I myself remember this [i.e., it was not hearsay].

When Fanlani died Tilamun wanted Akumale, but Akumale stole three small ears of corn from Lakumobi's garden. Lakumobi took Tilamun as wife to pay the debt, just for three small ears of corn. Now Lakumobi doesn't pay Tilamun's bride-price. He just took her. [Inaccurate.]

One time father, I, and Koleka's husband, Mailang of Hanuberka, were all at Hanuberka. The three of us went down into the ravine to get crabs. A young spirit bird flew up. Mailang shot and missed. He shot all [125] his arrows. Then father gave him his bird arrow and he hit the bird. When we got back to Hanuberka, Azaboi bought the spirit bird and cooked and pounded corn. We ate. Father got a *Vilai* snake as the second seller of the bird.

Once we were near Fiyaipe cutting a garden. Three men were sharing the work and the crop. At burning time we went down to the river to hunt for crayfish and eels near the place called Tolmang. We drained a pool and got an eel about the size of my wrist. Then we saw another as big as my calf. Fanlaka shot it and jumped into the water after it. We

159 up the caterpillars. There were many people and each one got only a little.

The next morning Mailuni [the informant's older brother] and I went to the fields. Mailuni killed a bird with a stone. He gave it to me, saying that mother would cook it for us when she came. When mother arrived, we cooked and ate the bird together. Then we worked in the field and in the evening returned to the village.

One day mother and my older brothers went to the fields to work, and I stayed home to take care of the children. The children cried. Fuimau, an old woman, called, saying, "Maniahuni [equivalent to our bogeyman] is coming." She frightened the children, so they stopped crying. When they cried again I told them to be quiet because Maniahuni was near. Just then the village caught fire and burned up. Languai had been sacrificing to his sacred hearth, and he had not put his fire out properly. It caught in the thatch of his house and it burned up. The whole center of the village with the lineage houses burned, and only the houses at the two ends of the village were left. There were only children in the village, because all the adults had gone off to work in the fields. We stood and cried and yelled to our parents to come. People from Alurkowati and Dikimpe came to help. Kolmuni's house almost caught fire, but the people from Alurkowati and Dikimpe climbed up and put it out. All the people took everything from their houses, the corn and pigs, and set them on the edge of the village. We gave all who helped presents of corn. Tilalewati [a lineage house] burned down; all the men were away. Our house did not burn because it was at one end of the village. First a small house caught, and then Molwati [a lineage house] burned, and then the others caught fire and the food in them was destroyed. Kolwati [a lineage house] almost burned, but the people climbed up on the thatch and poured water on it. The corn that people took out of their houses was all stolen except Lonmai's, because his family came to help him, so they did not steal it. Languai, who was 172 responsible for the fire, paid a big pig for the burning of the Mailuiru 483 lineage house [Tarnukwati] and for Kolluiru's lineage house [Lonwati]. But he did not pay for Tilalewati because he said he belonged to that lineage house and he would rebuild it. For a small lineage house [*rua kadang*] also called Lonwati, he paid a small pig.

December 27, 1938

I dreamed that Pedaboi came to Likmu and said, "They are going to feed the Djawa ewako in Ruaimahang. Let us go." But Likmu said, "I